



WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS

State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development
Office of Economic Advisors

FOR SOUTHWEST WISCONSIN COUNTIES

GRANT, GREEN, IOWA, LAFAYETTE, RICHLAND, & ROCK

March 2004

Winter Frosts Regional Unemployment Rates

The month of February is in many ways the coldest and harshest month of the winter, often more winter like even than January. It is not unusual to have the year's coldest weather in this early month, or the worst storms. Strangely, it is also often the month when the first hints of the coming spring will appear as uncharacteristic warm spells amid the deep cold of a long winter. Residents of Wisconsin have long learned to see these false signs of spring for what they are – brief hints of a warmer season that is still well around the corner and out of sight for a while yet.

to the same period 12 months ago, there has been a decline in unemployment in five of the six Southwest Wisconsin counties and an increase of jobs in half the area's counties.

Compared with twelve months ago there were 800 more jobs in the region. Industries leading the increase included health services, trade, and construction.

The February seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the **Janesville-Beloit Metropolitan Area** was 6.7 percent, up by 0.7 percentage points as compared to January's

9.2 percent, was the largest among 14 economies compared, according to data released by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics. Except for Italy, productivity also increased in all the other economies, with gains of more than six percent in Sweden, Korea, Belgium and Taiwan. The US productivity growth in 2002 was substantially above its 3.5 percent average annual growth rate since 1979. Six of the other 11 economies for which historical comparisons are available also surpassed their 1979-2002 average annual rates of increase in 2002

Message from Deputy Secretary Lucía Nuñez

The date for the Governor's Workforce Development Conference is fast approaching. The 11th annual conference will be held in Milwaukee May 19-21, 2004 at the Four Points Sheraton-Milwaukee Airport Hotel.

This year's conference theme, ***Grow Wisconsin: An Economic Imperative*** is built around Governor Doyle's "Grow Wisconsin" plan. The conference agenda underscores his vision for Wisconsin's workforce and will provide tools, strategies and best practices for use in the workplace. Conference attendees will network, strategize and problem-solve on issues impacting economic and workforce development.

Those registering for the conference before April 17 receive a discount. More details about the conference can be found at: <http://www.gwdc.net/>

Labor Force Estimates (Seasonally Adjusted)			
	Janesville/Beloit MSA	Wisconsin (000s)	United States (000s)
Current month: February 2004			
Civilian Labor Force	80,500	3,120.2	146,471
Employment	75,100	2,956.9	138,301
Unemployment	5,400	163.2	8,170
Unemployment rate	6.7%	5.2%	5.6%
Change from one month ago			
Civilian Labor Force	200	9.1	(392)
Employment	-400	2.6	(265)
Unemployment	600	6.4	(127)
Unemployment rate	0.7%	0.2%	0.0%
Change from one year ago			
Civilian Labor Force	1,800	57.7	573
Employment	2,000	71.4	983
Unemployment	-200	-13.9	(411)
Unemployment rate	-0.5%	-0.6%	-0.3%

Note: All estimates are preliminary and based on place of residence.

The employment characteristics typical of the colder months are well in place and reported in the February 2004 economic numbers for Southwest Wisconsin. It is expected that February employment will be at one of the lowest levels of the year. When we look at the unemployment rates of the Southwest Wisconsin workforce, it is not much of a surprise that there has been an increase from the previous month. However, when compared

reading of six percent. This February's 6.7 percent showing is 0.5 percentage points lower than last February's reading of 7.2 percent. The February 2004 Janesville-Beloit **Metropolitan Area** seasonal unemployment rate ranked 248th lowest out of the nation's 331 metropolitan statistical areas.

Nationally in 2002, the increase in US manufacturing productivity, at

Southwestern Wisconsin Workforce Development Area

February 2004	Grant	Green	Iowa	Lafayette	Richland	Rock	Region	Non MSA's *	Wisconsin
Civilian Labor Force**	26,362	18,070	15,293	7,556	9,003	79,721	156,005	76,284	3,100,443
Employed	24,427	16,825	14,408	6,907	8,451	73,771	144,789	71,018	2,900,761
Unemployed	1,935	1,245	885	649	552	5,950	11,216	5,266	199,682
Unemployment rate(%)	7.3	6.9	5.8	8.6	6.1	7.5	7.2	6.9	6.4
Total Nonfarm (NFWS) ***	19,000	13,800	11,600	3,450	6,000	66,200	120,100	53,900	2,750,000
Total Private	13,800	11,800	10,100	2,360	4,800	57,500	100,400	42,900	2,330,300
Goods Producing	3,100	3,400	1,000	520	1,900	17,900	27,800	9,900	612,000
Service Producing	15,900	10,500	10,600	2,930	4,200	48,300	92,300	44,000	2,138,000
Constr., Mining & Nat.Rsrcs	500	400	400	130	100	2,700	4,300	1,600	112,400
Manufacturing	2,600	3,000	600	400	1,800	15,200	23,500	8,300	499,600
Trade	2,600	3,000	6,600	670	1,100	12,600	26,500	13,900	426,700
Transportation & Utilities	400	300	300	170	100	2,500	3,700	1,200	313,800
Financial Activities	1,000	400	200	210	200	2,100	4,100	2,000	161,500
Education and Health Services	2,400	2,100	1,000	300	700	8,700	15,200	6,500	375,400
Leisure & Hospitality	1,600	1,000	600	200	400	5,500	9,300	3,800	231,600
Info., Prof.& Bus. Svcs, Other Svcs	2,700	1,700	500	300	400	8,200	13,700	5,500	418,600
Total Government	5,250	1,990	1,450	1,090	1,210	8,700	19,700	11,000	419,700
Federal	170	90	100	70	60	300	800	500	29,200
State	2,290	30	70	30	200	500	3,100	2,600	101,700
Local	2,790	1,860	1,290	990	950	7,900	15,800	7,900	288,800
Change from one month ago	January 2004								
Civilian Labor Force**	880	-160	-170	-40	50	300	840	600	18,200
Employed	660	-290	-280	-100	-20	-100	-170	0	2,600
Unemployed	220	120	110	60	70	400	1,010	600	15,700
Unemployment rate(%)	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.4
Total Nonfarm (NFWS)***	640	-200	-190	-40	10	0	200	200	15,900
Percent change NFWS last month	3.5%	-1.4%	-1.6%	-1.1%	0.2%	0.0%	0.2%	0.4%	0.6%
Total Private	0	-200	-200	-30	0	-300	-800	-500	-3,700
Goods Producing	-100	0	0	-10	0	-200	-300	-100	-1,600
Service Producing	700	-200	-200	-30	0	200	600	400	17,500
Constr., Mining & Nat.Rsrcs	-20	-10	-30	0	0	-100	-200	-100	-3,200
Manufacturing	-40	-30	0	0	0	-100	-200	-100	1,600
Trade	0	-70	-140	-10	-20	0	-200	-200	-4,800
Transportation & Utilities	0	-10	-10	0	0	0	0	0	-5,100
Financial Activities	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,700
Education and Health Services	10	-10	10	0	-10	0	0	0	3,900
Leisure & Hospitality	-10	-30	-10	-10	-10	-100	-200	-100	-3,300
Info., Prof.& Bus. Svcs, Other Svcs	30	-40	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,500
Total Government	650	0	0	-10	60	300	1,000	700	19,600
Federal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-100
State	660	0	-10	0	10	0	700	700	6,900
Local	-10	0	10	-10	50	300	300	0	12,800
Change from one year ago	February 2003								
Civilian Labor Force*	910	180	610	250	280	1,600	3,900	2,200	57,000
Employed	840	450	-270	360	370	2,000	4,800	2,800	70,000
Unemployed	60	-270	-150	-110	-90	-400	-900	-500	-13,000
Unemployment rate(%)	0.0	-1.6	-1.3	-1.7	-1.2	-0.6	-0.8	-0.9	-0.6
Total Nonfarm (NFWS)***	0	-80	260	0	40	600	800	200	31,600
Percent change NFWS last year	0.0%	-0.6%	2.3%	0.1%	0.6%	0.9%	0.7%	0.4%	1.2%
Total Private	100	0	300	50	100	800	1,300	500	36,800
Goods Producing	-200	-100	-100	-10	0	0	-400	-400	-1,000
Service Producing	200	0	300	20	0	600	1,200	600	32,600
Constr., Mining & Nat.Rsrcs	20	10	-10	10	10	200	200	0	4,300
Manufacturing	-200	-140	-60	-30	-10	-200	-600	-400	-5,300
Trade	-20	70	260	30	0	900	1,200	300	7,600
Transportation & Utilities	-10	10	-10	-10	0	0	0	0	5,800
Financial Activities	30	10	20	10	-10	100	200	100	6,600
Education and Health Services	120	-30	40	20	60	-100	100	200	13,800
Leisure & Hospitality	40	-10	0	0	10	0	0	0	7,600
Info., Prof.& Bus. Svcs, Other Svcs	140	30	20	0	20	-100	100	200	500
Total Government	-110	-40	0	-50	-50	-200	-500	-300	-5,200
Federal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-600
State	-10	0	-10	0	0	0	0	0	-500
Local	-100	-40	10	-50	-40	-200	-400	-200	-4,100

* Five counties, excluding Rock County

** Includes participants residing in area.

*** Includes employment with employers located in area. Estimates above are NOT seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary. Totals may not add due to rounding. NFWS data benchmarked to 3/2003